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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR) REPORT [redacted] 25X1

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Naval Vessels in the Harbor of Ventspils DATE DISTR. 28 August 1956

2. Radar in the Harbor of Ventspils NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE OF INFO. [redacted] REQUIREMENT [redacted] 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted] REFERENCES [redacted]

DATE ACQUIRED [redacted] This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

25X1

Soviet Naval Vessels in the Harbor of Ventspils

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25X1

1. A Soviet submarine [redacted] was observed [redacted] moving on a northwest course at 1100 (A) hours on 21 April 1956, outside of the Ventspils harbor entrance. The submarine, which was about 70 to 75 meters long, had a high bow, a deck which sloped toward the water line aft, and a stepped conning tower with ports on the foreside. The tower, which was about 15 meters long, was located amidships. (See Sketch No. 1, page 6.) Two guns, which were about 40 mm caliber, protruded from the forward side of the bottom step of the conning tower. No periscope or snorkel was observed. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted] the submarine departed the harbor area at 0645 GMT on 21 April and returned on 25 April. [redacted] the submarine [redacted] near the city quay with its screw turning. (See Sketch No. 2, page 6.) [redacted]

25X1

UNCODED a submarine [redacted] the two barrels in the gun turret were in vertical order.

25X1
25X1
25X1
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2. [redacted] a tender of about 5,000 tons, [redacted] (see Sketch No. 3 page 7). [redacted] an old naval vessel [redacted] to be a repair ship. (See Sketch No. 4, page 7.)

25X1

3. The following observations were made [redacted] near the city quay on [redacted]

25X1
25X1

a. Five large minesweepers [redacted] All of these vessels, [redacted] had searchlights and radar on the truck of the mast.²

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b. Other vessels [redacted] and two similar vessels [redacted]

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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[redacted]

25X1

c. Smaller minesweepers, [redacted]

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25X1

d. A corvette-like vessel [redacted]

25X1

e. Sailors received three rubles for a tie, 150 rubles for a jacket, and 75 rubles for a shirt of average quality, on the black market in Ventspils.

4. The following observations were made [redacted]

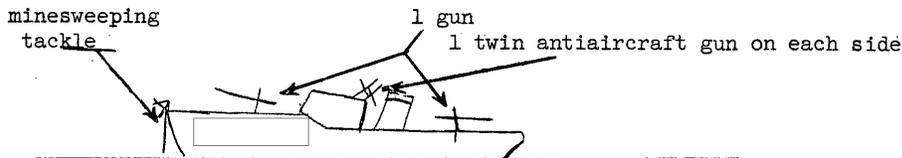
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a. A naval vessel, which was about 90 meters long, [redacted] The vessel's one gun forward and one gun aft had a barrel about eight to ten meters long. A twin anti-aircraft gun was observed amidships on each side and before the stack. The vessel was equipped with minesweeping equipment. The following is a sketch of the vessel:

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Soviet Naval Vessel [redacted]

25X1



25X1

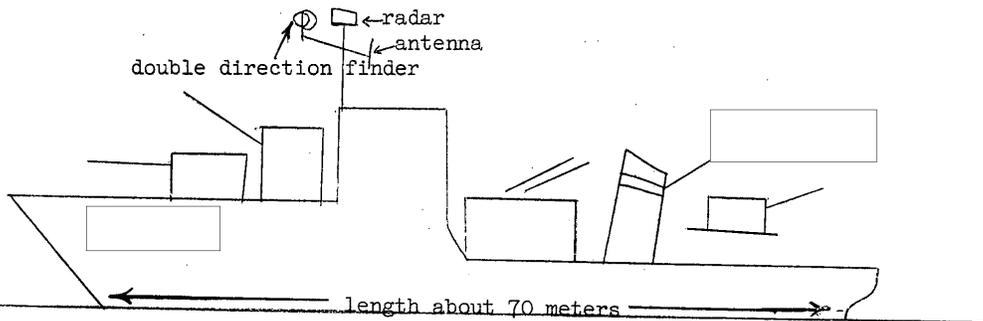
5. The following observations [redacted]

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a. At 1200 (A) hours on 21 April, a Soviet naval vessel [redacted] The vessel moved about and inspected anchored ships, and then, at an average speed, moved westward. A naval vessel [redacted] was observed [redacted] near the city quay. The following is a sketch of the vessel:

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25X1

25X1

Naval Vessel [redacted]

25X1

b. Fifteen naval vessels [redacted] were observed near the city quay. Several of these vessels, almost all of which were alike, left the quay area but later returned. [redacted]

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following is a sketch of the vessel:

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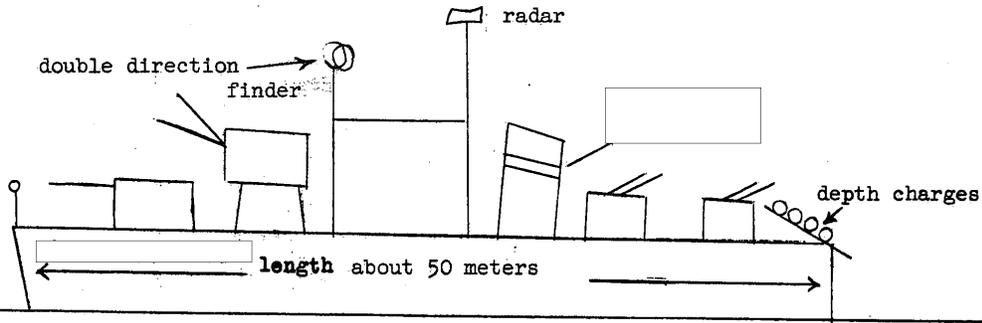
[redacted]

25X1

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25X1



25X1

25X1

c. Antenna which extended over the tree tops in the woods on the north side of the river bend, between the export and import quays. [redacted] on the roof of a building in southwest Ventspils a boat-like shape on top, or which was located a large observatory-like dome. The following are sketches of the antenna and dome [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

Sketch A

Antenna



(observed in [redacted])

Sketch C)

Sketch B

Observatory-like dome

(observed in [redacted])

Sketch C)



25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Sketch C

Direction from which observed [redacted]

Radar with Scanner about 20 Meters above Water Surface

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25X1

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[Redacted]

25X1

-4-

6. The following observations [Redacted] 25X1

a. Six naval vessels which were smaller than the submarine [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] The vessels were moored in tiers of two, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] The vessels, which were about 25X1

40 to 50 meters long, had flush decks [Redacted] a box- 25X1

shaped bridge without radar, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted], and a raked funnel with a raked cowling, which 25X1

was slightly higher than the bridge. On the foredeck of the vessels was a 25X1

shielded gun, which was about 75 mm in caliber. A large amount of 25X1

antiaircraft ordnance was on the afterdeck. A minelaying rack or depth 25X1

charge rack was on each side of the afterdeck. There were no torpedoes 25X1

on the vessels.

b. Fourteen [Redacted] patrol vessels which were similar to the German R-boats. 25X1

Six additional patrol boats were observed out from the winter harbor.

c. Four small modern minesweepers ashore, east of the winter harbor.

d. Vertical bows of four old medium-size vessels in the winter harbor [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

7. The following observations [Redacted] near the city quay [Redacted] 25X1

a. About 14 submarine chasers, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] Radar on one of the vessels was 25X1

turning eight revolutions per minute.

b. Twelve small minesweepers, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

c. One large minesweeper [Redacted] 25X1

d. Five similar vessels, smaller than the submarine chasers. [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

e. Three MTBs.⁵

8. The following observations were made [Redacted] 25X1

a. Seven small destroyer-like vessels, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

b. One MTB.⁶

Radar in the Harbor of Ventspils

9. Radar, which resembled in size and shape a regular merchant ship's radar, [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

a 15-m high radar tower, which was located near the west mole, to have an 25X1

egg cup antenna and a parabolic antenna. [Redacted] the 25X1

tower had a small scanner and was 12 to 15 meters high (see Sketch No. 5, 25X1

page 7), [Redacted] the scanner was about 20 meters 25X1

above the water and that it was the same height as a pilot tower (see Sketch C, 25X1

page 3). [Redacted] the radar was not in use during 25X1

the periods of observation. [Redacted] the radar station, 25X1

which had an ordinary scanner, was located at the end of the southern pier, and 25X1

that it had an iron pylon which was about 30 meters high. [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] a similar radar station was located about 1,000 25X1

meters north of the harbor near the shore.⁷ [Redacted] these 25X1

two stations were frontier guard stations.

[Large Redacted Block]

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25X1

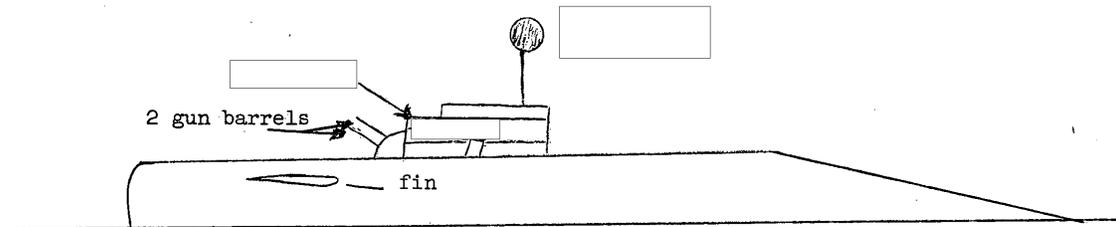
Sketch No. 1: Submarine [redacted]



the conning tower was about 15 meters long)

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25X1



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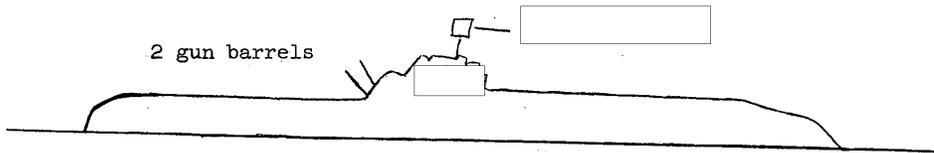
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Sketch No. 2: Submarine [redacted]



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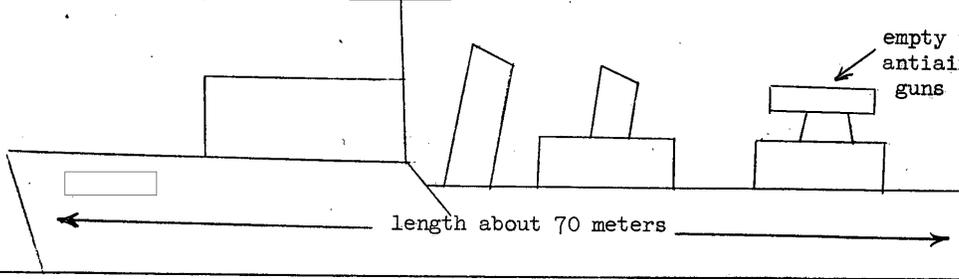
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Sketch No. 3: Tender



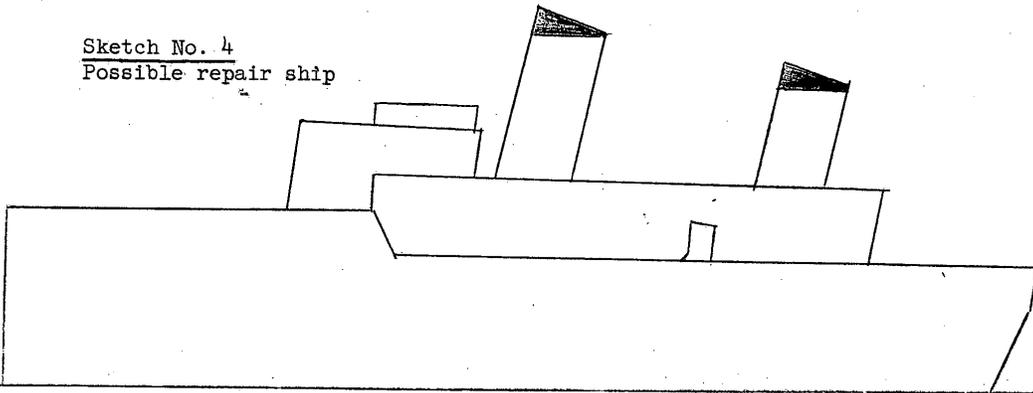
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empty tub for
antiaircraft
guns

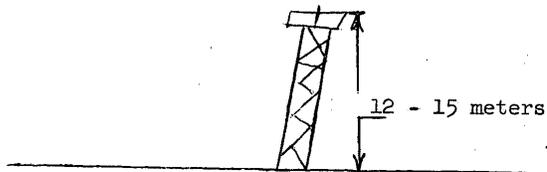


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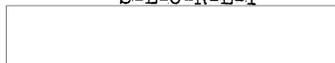
Sketch No. 4
Possible repair ship



Sketch No. 5
Radar Tower with Small Scanner



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